

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

045-3010-0411

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Dr. Frederic D. Morse House
other names/site number Same

2. Location

street & number 1041 Tennessee Street ☐ not for publication
city, town Lawrence ☐ vicinity
state Kansas code KS county Douglas code 045 zip code 66044

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.
Ramon Powers State Historic Preservation Officer November 20, 1990
Signature of certifying official Date
Kansas State Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic; Single dwelling;

Residence

Current Function (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic; Single dwelling;

Residence

7. DescriptionArchitectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian; Queen Anne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: limestone

walls Wood: weatherboard, shingle

roof Other: composition

other Brick

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Dr. Frederic D. Morse House is located at 1041 Tennessee in Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas (pop. 52,738). The two-story, frame Queen Anne house stands on a rusticated limestone block foundation and is surmounted with a cross gabled, hipped roof. The house has an eastern facade orientation. Its overall measurements are thirty-two feet from east to west and fifty-eight feet from north to south. The property maintains a high degree of architectural and structural integrity.

The house stands near the southwest corner of a busy residential block comprised of two-story late nineteenth and early twentieth century residences. The original limestone steps and paving lead from the house to the curb at Tennessee Street. Two limestone hitching posts flank the steps. The brick sidewalk in front of the house has been replaced with concrete, but portions of the original brick sidewalk are still extant on this block. An alley runs the length of the Tennessee Street block behind the house. A non-contributing, one-story, gable roofed frame garage stands behind the house, accessed by the alley.

Large gables project from the center hipped roof core of the house. The gables stand at different elevations and employ different decorative treatments, providing the asymmetry essential for the Queen Anne style. The facade elevation is defined by a double gable projection, the secondary elevations employ a single gable projection. A gabled pediment projects from the facade's pent roof entry porch. The porch employs variations of spindle work detailing in its balusters, porch columns, and frieze.

The main body of the house is sheathed with wooden clapboards. Corner posts articulate the building's angles, sill plates articulate the building's floor levels. The building's gable faces are decorated with fishscale shingling and variations on half-timbering. Facade fenestration is composed of two 2/1 double hung sashes, two 1/1 double hung sashes, and four fixed windows with clear and colored art glass. Secondary elevation fenestration is composed primarily of 1/1 double hung sash. Sunburst motif panels surmount two prominent windows on the facade and northern elevations. Brick chimneys rise from the north and west gable roofs.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

The interior of the house maintains its original floorplan and architectural features. The house displays an asymmetrical floorplan, with a main staircase and foyer merge very close to the front door. The primary wood employed in the house is oak. The panelled doors, the fluted door and window surrounds, the baseboards, the rustic and Eastlake styled staircase and newel post, the pocket doors, the lacey wooden friezes, brass and procelain hardware and grille plates, the transomed doorways, the wooden fireplace mantles, and the Minton tiled hearths combine for an intact nineteenth century appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locallyApplicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☒ B ☒ C ☐ DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ArchitectureHealth/Medicine

Period of Significance

1888-18891889-1931

Significant Dates

1888-18891915

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Dr. Frederic D. Morse

Architect/Builder

Unknown**State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.**

The Dr. Frederic D. Morse House (c. 1888-1889) is being nominated to the National Register under criteria B and C for its historical association with Dr. Frederic D. Morse and for its architectural significance as a Queen Anne residence. The property maintains a high degree of architectural and structural integrity.

Dr. Frederic D. Morse (1838-1931) came to Lawrence in 1868 to practice medicine upon graduation from Rush Medical College in Chicago. He had an active and successful practice occupying the same office at 801 Massachusetts until 1915, when he began to practice out of his home. For six years he lectured to Kansas University Medical students on the "History of Medicine." He served as president and secretary of the Kansas State Medical Society. Additionally, he served as president of the Douglas County Medical Society and was a member of the American Medical Association. His obituary noted that, "Doctor Morse visited his patients in a horse and buggy for years but later made his calls in an electric automobile. He was active until several years ago." For the past two years he has been confined to his home."

Morse purchased Lot 141 on Tennessee Street from G.W.E. Griffith and Priscilla A. Griffith in 1885 for \$1000. In 1888 began work on the 1041 Tennessee Street house. Morse's taxes on the property between 1888 and 1892 jumped from \$450 to \$1175. Morse and his wife Addie Smith lived in the house until their respective deaths in 1931 and 1914. The couple had no children. The property was sold in 1932 for \$2375 and changed hands eight more times until the present owners purchased it in 1988.

The Dr. Frederic D. Morse House stands in the Oread neighborhood of Lawrence, which is a residential area located between the downtown commercial district and the University of Kansas. The period between 1874 and 1899 was a time of expansion in the building of Lawrence and the Oread neighborhood. E.F. Caldwell, a local publisher, wrote in 1898 that: "A complete system of water works has been put in, uniform street grades have been established, a number of streets have

☒ See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2

been macademized, a great mileage of curbing and guttering, and stone, and brick sidewalks laid." The Oread neighborhood was one of the areas most heavily built upon during this time. Nearly all of the buildings in Oread of this period are constructed of wood. The railroad made available large amounts of lumber wanted to build Queen Anne, Italiante, and Folk Victorian houses.

The Oread neighborhood was a diverse racial, economic, and social mixture. In the 1896 Lawrence City Directory on finds families ranging in economic status from laborers and dressmakers to physicians and university professors. By the 1890s a large percentage of Oread's population was associated with the university, and as the university grew so did Oread.

The Dr. Frederic D. Morse House is a two-story, frame house surmounted by a hipped roof with cross gables. It sits on a rusticated stone foundation. Its high hipped roof with projecting cross gables comprises the most common Queen Anne house type. The irregular roof shape and dominant facade and secondary elevation gables are hallmarks of this style. The combination of projecting bays and multiple shingle and clapboarding types employed on the building provide a rich textural diversity. The interior of the house exhibits an irregular floorplan, period mantles and light fixtures, and a restrained Eastlake newel post. All of these features combine to make this house a good example of the residential housing that was constructed in the Oread neighborhood in the late nineteenth century.

Of Oread Lawrence resident Oliver Finney wrote in 1987 that, "There were some remarkably fine houses built....and many remain, however some of the finest are gone, and the rest are seriously threatened by economic and political situations....There are virtually no forces encouraging renovation of houses in the neighborhood. When zoning places value on property for its development potential as apartments, houses will not survive indefinitely....A rezoning effort....will not happen unless there is a consensus that Oread neighborhood possess(es) valuable architectural resources that should be preserved."

The Dr. Frederic D. Morse House was purchased in 1988 by a young family who have cared very well for the property. Marcia Epstein and Kyle Thompson are concerned about the future of Oread, Thompson serves as the current president of the Oread Neighborhood Association. While their house is not threatened, Epstein is concerned about the risk of demolition of other houses like it in Oread, especially those rental structures which are left deliberately to deteriorate by their owners with a longterm goal of forcing condemnation and demolition of the property. In a 1989 Oread Neighborhood Newsletter she wrote that, "One of the joys of Oread living is the old homes and their special features-- an intricate porch, lovely stained glass, an attic gable with unusual shingles that hints at what may be under the siding. We need these homes."

9. Major Bibliographical References

Andrea, A.T., History of the State of Kansas. (Chicago: A.T. Andreas, 1883).

Blackmar, Frank Wilson. Kansas, A Cyclopedia of State History. (Chicago: Standard Publishing Co., 1912).

Boughton and McAllaster. Lawrence City Director and Business Guide, available issues 1878-1932. (Lawrence, Ks: Boughton and McAllaster).

Caldwell, E.F., compiler and publisher. A Souvenir History of Lawrence, Kansas, 1898. (Kansas City, Missouri: Lawton & Burnap Press).

☒ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository:

Kansas State Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

A 1 5 3 0 6 0 2 0 4 3 1 5 0 1 5
Zone Easting Northing

C

B
Zone Easting Northing

D

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is located on Lot 141 on Tennessee Street in Lawrence, Kansas. The property is bounded to the east by Tennessee Street, to the west by an alley, and to the north and south by adjacent property lines.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all extant property historically associated with the house.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Martha Hagedorn-Krass, Architectural Historian

organization Kansas State Historical Society date January 9, 1991

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city or town Topeka state Kansas zip code 66612

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 3

Douglas County, Kansas. Tax Rolls, 1883 - 1900. Douglas County Courthouse,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Epstein, Marcia, "The Dr. Frederic Morse House." (National Register
nomination, 1989).

Gray, B. Allison. "Heart of the Oread Survey". Available at Watkins
Community Museum, Lawrence, Kansas.

Lawrence Daily Journal World. Obituary of Mrs. Addie Morse, 11/2/1914.

Lawrence Daily Journal World. Obituary of Dr. F.D. Morse, 7/30/1931
page 1.

Lawrence Daily Journal World. Notice of Memorial Service for Dr. F.D.
Morse, 7/31/1931.

Registry of Kansas Board of Health, 1887-1900 editions.

Sanborn Insurance Company. "Maps of Lawrence, Kansas." (New York:
Sanborn Insurance Co., 1897).

Topeka Daily Capital. Men of Kansas 1905. (Topeka, Kansas, 1905).

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

